

Intangible Cultural Heritage Update

News and notes on Newfoundland and Labrador's Intangible Cultural Heritage Program

Feb-Mar 2011
ISSN 1918-7408

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Mummers Awarded!

At the last annual conference for Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador, the Mummers Festival paraded off with the 2011 Cultural Tourism Award.

The purpose of the Cultural Tourism Award is to promote the innovative pursuit of cultural expression within the tourism industry. The Cultural Tourism Award recognizes and rewards progressive efforts which resulted in an enriched cultural tourism experience over the past year.

In this issue

- | | |
|--------|------------------------|
| Page 1 | Cultural Tourism Award |
| Page 2 | Boxes Under The Bed |
| Page 2 | Jack Tales |
| Page 3 | Old Time Concerts |
| Page 4 | ACHP grants |

Presented by HNL, Canadian Heritage and the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, the award acknowledges an individual or organization that recognizes and promotes the pursuit of cultural expression within the tourism industry.

"At age 2, this is a great honour for the Mummers Festival," says Mummers Festival Coordinator Ryan Davis. "It recognizes the hard work and enthusiasm that volunteers, supporters, and participants have invested in a uniquely local, public celebration of tradition. This award affirms the value of our grassroots, community-building festival and supports an innovative approach to cultural tourism that inspires all who participate -- both visitors and the Province's diverse community."

The Honourable Terry French, Minister of Tourism, Culture, and Recreation presented the Mummers Parade and Festival with the award for Cultural Tourism.

According to the HNL website, "Cultural Tourism in Newfoundland and Labrador is the offering of an enhanced product and/or experience that celebrates the inherent value of a community's culture, heritage, and lifestyle. These unique attributes serve to inspire the creation of skilled interpretive opportunities such as crafts, cuisine, the visual and performing arts, literature, the landscape, historic sites, outdoor adventure, festivals, accommodations and special celebrations which contribute to the tourism industry."

For more information on the Mummers Festival, and to see recently posted pictures from the award-winning parade, please visit their website www.mummersfestival.ca.

Boxes Under the Bed Workshop: Dealing with backlog interview collections

April 8, 2011 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

The Lantern, 35 Barnes Road, St. John's

Well, maybe they're in your storage room, or in your bottom desk drawer – those shoeboxes of cassettes or videos that were collected by a summer project, seniors group or JCP worker. These were the recordings that were going to preserve the voices of the past, but here they sit with no voice at all! You don't know what's on the recordings, you don't know much about who made them. Maybe you don't even have the equipment to play them!

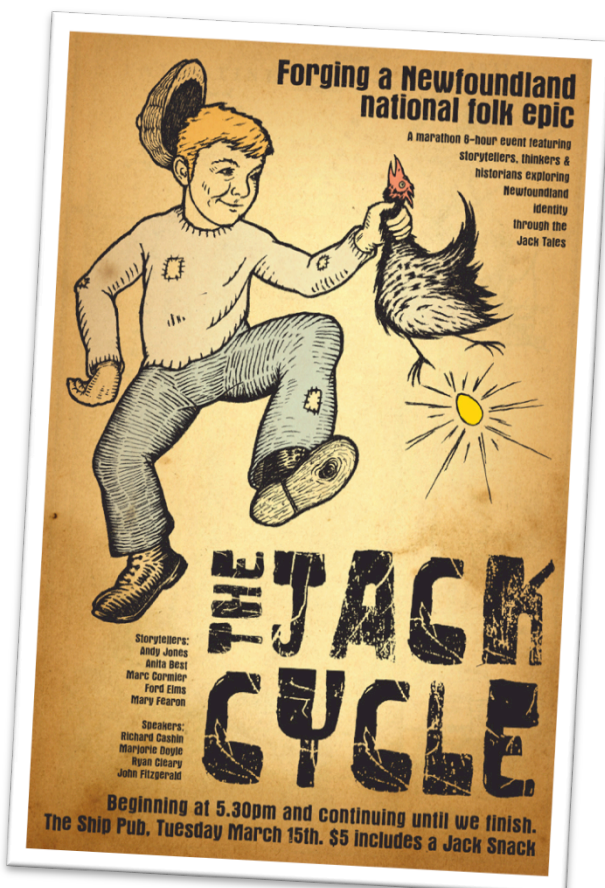
How can you get access to those voices from the past? How can you preserve and use them? Dale Jarvis and Mary Ellen Wright will guide you through the process of identifying, arranging, describing, preserving and providing access to older collections that have been donated or made available to you or that already exist in your holdings. Topics to be covered include:

- Recording formats
- Describing, indexing and transcription of contents
- Digitization
- Documentation and consent
- Access issues
- Preservation of originals

Registration deadline: Participants must register for this course by April 1. Fees: \$35 Some financial assistance for transportation costs is available for members. Please contact the ANLA office for more information.

Telephone: 709-726-2867

E-mail: anla@nf.aibn.com



Do you know Jack?

National folk epics. Greeks have the *Odyssey*, Irish have the *Táin* cycle, Finns the *Kalavala*, Icelanders the *Sagas*. Told or sung for hours, they echo the national character of those cultures.

In Newfoundland we've got... Jack.

Jack Tales encapsulate elements of the Newfoundland character that have evolved over five centuries: honesty, naïveté, wit, handiness, courage, humility, cleverness, generosity, and a general belief in the impossible (amongst others).

On March 15th, the St. John's Storytelling Festival is bringing Jack Tale tellers together with thinkers and historians at the Ship Pub. The storytellers will tell the folktales, the speakers will talk about Jack in our real history. Organizers plan that the event will lay the foundation for a Newfoundland national epic.

Admission is \$5 at the door, and gets you a snack to go with your Jack.

For more information on the Festival, which runs March 9-15, visit the website at www.storytellingstjohns.ca.

Adapting Old Time Concerts To Modern Times

By Melissa Squarey

Mona Petten, of Port de Grave, is the second in our regular Tradition Bearers Spotlight.

Mona Petten, from Hibb's Hole (now Port de Grave), knows a few things about Times, Concerts, Drills, Skits, and Dialogues. These words are not necessarily common to everyone across the globe, but here in Newfoundland and Labrador these words unlock fond memories.

Mona breaks these words down for those who are unfamiliar with the terminology. Mona says "A time usually involves a supper put off by the local lodge or ladies church group, there is usually some crafts for sale, games for the children to play, and usually at the end there would be a dance." This differs from concerts which she describes as involving "a lot of practicing for weeks of skits, songs, and drills." Following the concert, a supper was served and there was often a dance. Dialogues were different says Mona "They involved acting out a story" on stage.

Mona has a particularly vivid memory of one dialogue that was performed at a concert.

"It was called Want of a Housekeeper, it was about these two old bachelors who were living alone and they decided they were going to get a housekeeper to come and work for them," describes Mona. "So, they interviewed several people but all of them were turned down for some reason or another. They [the interviews] were quite funny by asking the questions that they asked. Anyway, one housekeeper came in and didn't speak English very well. There was another one who came in and all she knew how to cook was pea soup. Then another one came in and she was kind of bossy."

"Finally they had this beautiful girl come in and she had everything they wanted in a housekeeper. The two bachelors began fighting over her about who was going to take her to the time, or dance, and anyway she said that she wasn't staying there anymore with them. She said that she had enough of all the fighting and she left. Anyway, at the end, here were the two old guys back to where they started."



The dialogues that were performed at a concert were often chosen from books that could be bought at the time. These books were also passed down through the schools. Mona says "When I look back at them [the books] now, you can imagine that some of them wouldn't have been politically correct today." Another popular thing to do with dialogues, explains Mona, was to take a Pigeon Inlet story and make a dialogue around that. Every year the dialogues, skits, and drills would rotate and be different from the year previous.

Mona's stories about concerts and times around the Port de Grave area are not just from the distant past. She has been crucial to the survival of this tradition in the area and adapted the old time concert to modern day times.

"Back in 92-93, this friend said to me 'there's one thing I'd like to do before I die and that's to take part in an old fashioned concert' because we hadn't any concerts in awhile, probably as long as 20 years." says Mona. She describes how these two women put their heads together to come up with a plan for a concert which they then implemented. Mona says "We were amazed at how well it was received, we ran it for three nights and for three

nights it was packed with over 200 people each night. They came from all over, from other communities, it was like they were starved for an old fashioned concert or maybe starved for a laugh.” Mona reflects on how hard times were upon most families in the province due to the fishery collapse. She believes that the concert gave some people a relief from the difficulties they were facing at the time.

You can also check out Memorial University’s Digital Archives Initiative at <http://tinyurl.com/monapetten> for the full interview about this tradition. Photos by Dale Jarvis. If you know of a tradition bearer we should spotlight, send an email to ich@heritagefoundation.ca.

How you can help safeguard this tradition

The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador needs your help with their most current ICH Collection. We have started to gather information about Old Time Concerts in the Baccalieu Trail Area. We need help gathering people’s memories about Old Time Concerts in the area and are hoping that some of you may be able to help by providing us with yours! If you have a memory about concerts in the area and are willing to be recorded for our online Old Time Concert Collection please contact Mel at the Heritage Foundation by calling 1-888-739-1892 ext. 3 or emailing ichprograms@gmail.com

Keep your eyes open for a series of concerts in the region, with concerts in Heart’s Content, Bay Roberts and Cupids this April and May. More on that in our next issue!

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Grants

Aboriginal organizations in Newfoundland and Labrador with a focus on preserving cultural heritage are being encouraged to apply to the Provincial Government’s 2011 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Program (ACHP).

“Established as a pilot project in 2008, this program has funded a number of successful initiatives designed to support the province’s Aboriginal heritage,” said the Honourable Terry French, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation. “As a government, we are committed to safeguarding and protecting Newfoundland and Labrador’s Aboriginal heritage. We want to ensure the practices and cultures of Aboriginal peoples in the province will be celebrated and sustained into the future.”

ACHP supports eligible applicants in the safeguarding of traditions and culture including language, traditional knowledge and skills, storytelling, music, games and other pastimes, knowledge of the landscape, customs, cultural practices and beliefs, food customs, and living off the land. Successful applicants can receive up to \$15,000 for projects that document, pass on, and celebrate cultural traditions.

For short-term events that recognize traditional culture, a grant of up to \$1,000 is available. Applications are reviewed by the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee, composed of representatives from Aboriginal groups across the province.

The deadline for proposals is April 15, 2011.

For an application and further guidelines about the program, visit <http://tinyurl.com/AboriginalCulturalHeritage>

